

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY  
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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**PRESENT:** Ed Koslowski, Rosemary Desisles, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Bernie Erickson, Dave Boyce, Jerry Polus, Jim Haskins, Joe Witkowski, Bill Kloiber, Sherry Steenbock

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**\*\*Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1503**

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**1. Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:00 p.m.

**2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.**

**3. Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Delores Pierce to approve the agenda. Vote taken.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. Approve or Modify Minutes of October 15, 2013.**

**Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Ed Koslowski to approve the minutes. Vote taken.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Chair Bernie Erickson introduced guest Dave Boyce to the Subcommittee.

**5. Any new discussion regarding Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.**

Jim Haskins indicated that he would like to see POWs from Wisconsin honored at next year's Fair. Erickson stated that we would have to make contact with them to be sure they wish to attend the Fair and then decide on some type of memento to give them. Koslowski reported that he had had some contact with Triangle Distributing about a contribution to the Veterans Meet and Greet. Triangle indicated they do a lot of banners and printing and they may be able to help out in that regard. Koslowski felt more banners on the midway would be helpful and he will continue to work with Triangle on this and keep the Subcommittee advised. Koslowski also stated that he will be working on getting a four day display set up in one of the buildings at the Fair to honor Brown County Veterans. Post 57 has a display that covers from WWI all the way up to the Korean War and he felt that he could also talk to the Vietnam Vets, Rolling Thunder and Desert Storm Vets as they may also be interested in working on a display. Haskins stated that the next Fair Board meeting will be held on December 4 and he will attend to represent this Subcommittee.

Erickson stated he sent Steve Corrigan from the Fair Board a nice thank you note for what they have done for the Subcommittee. He has also had a good conversation with Corrigan about moving the stage closer to the midway and Erickson indicated to Corrigan that we usually get pretty good entertainment and we could have the entertainment start earlier in the day and be part of the overall Fair's entertainment.

6. **Discussion and possible action regarding suicide prevention and/or interaction.**

Rosemary Desisles stated that her views on this have changed somewhat since the last meeting. She is a part of the Navy League and three weeks ago she went to Madison for a 5K walk/run which was to celebrate or recognize all veterans of all services who have died. She is currently involved in starting a Navy League Chapter in Green Bay and they would like to have a 5K walk /run in Green Bay sometime next fall similar to what was done in Madison. She would need a steering committee to help her and volunteers for the event. She felt this would be a great way to honor veterans who have passed and she was hopeful that this Subcommittee would be a part of this event. Desisles continued that the Navy League would provide the liability insurance for the event. Sponsors would be needed as well as a place to hold the event. Several other ideas were discussed such as having this held in conjunction with the Fair and Desisles will continue to keep this group advised of planning and developments.

7. **Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.**

CVSO Jerry Polus reported that Veterans' Court had its first two graduates last Friday. There are currently 23 members in the court with six or seven more pending. This has been a very positive program and the Veterans Court team continues to work hard at making this a successful program. Erickson asked what the most common offenses were with regard to Veterans' Court and Polus responded that they most often see domestic abuse and OWI cases.

Polus also reported that Cardinal Capital Management announced recently that they have received the appropriate tax credits to build a veterans' facility on the site of the old Mental Health Center. This project is expected to break ground next spring or summer and will consist of 50 units of one bedroom apartments. Within the complex there will be a support office run by the Center for Veterans Issues. Polus will keep the Subcommittee advised of developments with regard to this project as they materialize.

Polus continued that the hottest item he had was with regard to the issue of identifying veterans on drivers' licenses. There are currently about 17,000 vets in Brown County and Polus explained the procedure to get a driver's license which denotes the veteran status. The call center is directing people to their local CVSO offices for help with this and Polus's office is being bombarded with calls. This is a voluntary action and is not required of veterans. The reasoning on this is for veterans to easily obtain discounts at various stores and is a way for any veterans to show their status.

8. **Comments from Bill Kloiber and/or Carl Soderburg.**

Kloiber stated that there will be an antique B17 bomber at the hangar at Jet Air on Saturday for viewing and this plane will also be doing a flyover at the Packers game on Sunday. Kloiber also commented on the Veterans Day Event at the Yacht Club and wondered if there had ever been efforts to consolidate all the Veterans' Day events into one large event. After discussing this matter it was the feeling of the Subcommittee that the groups have a preference to do their own thing and would not want to give up the tradition of holding their own activities and ceremonies.

9. **Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Desisles, Haskins, Koslowski, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Steenbock & Witkowski.**

-Erickson stated that he attended the VFW breakfast and it was quite nice.

-Desisles had nothing to report other than what she had discussed above.

-Haskins reported that there were only 138 prizes for the Veterans Day event compared to 183 last year. He felt that the Subcommittee could put a little more effort into securing door prizes and he

felt that next year some goals should be set for the Subcommittee. He also reported that the VFW website listed a number of discounts and free meals and other promotions for Veterans Day. He had a meal at Texas Roadhouse and he stated that it was very nice and they made him feel very, very welcome.

Haskins also reported that Atonement Lutheran Church will be collecting items to make care packages for Veterans. He also stated that the Bay Park Cinema showed a military film on Veterans Day entitled "Honor Flight: One Last Mission". Haskins also noted that the Packers had several different special things in honor of Veterans at their game. Haskins continued his report by reading a tribute to Veterans.

-Pierce stated that he attended the Veterans Day event at the Yacht Club and it was very nice. He also went to Pearly Gates for a meal with Jim which was very nice as well and well attended. Pierce also stated that he had recently attended a Rolling Thunder meeting and some of the members had just returned from the national convention. He learned at this meeting that a lot of the chapters around the nation are putting up POW chairs at stadiums and other venues. The Rolling Thunder group indicated they would like to see a POW chair at Lambeau Field and Pierce will keep the subcommittee advised of any developments with this.

-Steenbock reported on the Veterans Day event held at the VFW. She thanked Koslowski and Haskins for their help at the event. She felt the event went very well with the exception of a traffic jam after she would call off the winning tickets. She felt that going forward she could pull the tickets and give them to Jim to put on the board and she can write them down and then call them off and this may help with the congestion. Other ideas on how to distribute the prizes were also discussed. They gave about 130 prizes away and the Veterans seemed very thankful for them. She stated that she got eight new donors for this year's event.

Steenbock also indicated that 30 new certificates will be going out this month.

-Witkowski shared a news article with the Subcommittee regarding a mock air raid that was staged a number of years ago. He found this in the "Today in History" section of the newspaper. He also shared an article dated October 16, 2013 in which the President awarded retired Army Captain Swenson the Medal of Honor making him the first Army officer to receive the military's highest honor since Vietnam. Witkowski also mentioned the MIA chair in our meeting room and he thought this should be recognized.

10. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

None.

11. **Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Rosemary Desisles to adjourn at 6:13 p.m. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Recording Secretary